

Snowmachine Trail Development and Program Grants**FY2003 Request:****\$200,000****Reference No:****33690****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Health and Safety**Category:** Transportation**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Jim Stratton**Election District:** Statewide**Contact Phone:** (907)269-8700**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2006**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Snowmobiling is one of Alaska's fastest growing outdoor recreation activities. Funds are needed to develop and maintain trails and trailheads to provide for safe riding opportunities and to educate riders about safety concerns. Funds for this program are provided by snowmobile registration fees paid by Alaskans. Funds are distributed in the form of matching grants for trail and trailhead development and maintenance, safety education, and trail identification. Grants are to organizations, businesses, agencies, local governments, and individuals.

Funding:

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
Gen Fund	\$200,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$250,000		\$1,150,000
Total:	\$200,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$1,150,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

SLA01/CH61 - \$200,000

SLA00/CH135 - \$188,800

SLA99/CH2 - \$120,000

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These are funds paid by snowmobile registrations through the passage of the point-of-sale snowmobile registration bill (SLA98/CH134), to be used for snowmobile trail and trailhead development and safety education programs. Parks has provided these grants for three years. This request is for the program's fourth year. Grant decisions are made with the consultation of a Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee (SnoTRAC), a citizen committee appointed by the Park Director, to assist in determining which grants to fund.

Snowmobile users benefit from the registration fees they pay on their snowmobiles by having marked and maintained snowmobile trails. This provides safety benefits to riders. Alaskans die in snowmobile accidents at twice the rate of any other state. This is in part due to the lack of signed and maintained trails. It also has the potential of reducing search and rescue costs by reducing the chances of snowmobilers getting lost. Trespass is also reduced if snowmobilers have marked and maintained trails to stay on. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 25 percent of state provided grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Anchorage Economic Development Corporation estimates that snowmobile sales and activity in Alaska results in approximately \$54 million in annual private sector expenditures.

Specific Spending Detail:

One hundred percent of the requested funds will be spent as follows: 69% for direct grants to develop and maintain snowmobile trails; 17% for safety and education programs; and 14% for grant administration and support of the statewide Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee.

Project Support:

Alaska State Snowmobile Association; Alaska Snowmobile Representatives Alliance; Anchorage Economic Development Corporation; Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau; Alaska Travel Industry Alliance; local snowmobile organizations and dealers; Division of Motor Vehicles.

Project Opposition: None